

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3036

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1089

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UNGA, SF, US, SHUM

SUBJECT: VORSTER BLASTS STATE DEPARTMENT AS SOURCE OF

"BLATANT LIES" ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA.

REF: USUN 5298 (NOTAL)

1. SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION LEAD ITEM MORNING OCTOBER 30 WAS SUMMARY OF BLISTERING VORSTER CHALLENGE TO US STATE DEPARTMENT TO PROVE CHARGES THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE HELD IN DETENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA "SOLELY FOR THEIR OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID". SPEAKING NIGHT 29TH IN HEIDELBERG CONSTITUENCY, VORSTER APPARENTLY TOOK PRICKLY TONE ON NUMBER OF SUBJECTS RELATING TO RACE PROBLEMS BUT GAVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS BY SPEAKING IN ENGLISH TO DELIVER BITTER REACTION TO MITCHELL SPEECH OF OCTOBER 23 IN APARTHEID COMMITTEE. (REFTEL) WE HAVE REQUESTED FULL TEXT. FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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SUMMARIZES SABC BROADCAST AND PRELIMINARY PRESS COVERAGE.

2. NOTING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NEVER TRIED TO MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR AMERICA IN ITS ACKNOWLEDGED ROLE AS LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD, VORSTER SAID HE HATED TO SPEAK IN SUCH A MANNER BUT COULD NOT LET THE CHARGE FROM AMERICA GO UNANSWERED. HE DID NOT KNOW THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE (MITCHELL) WHO HAD SAID THESE THINGS IN THE UN, BUT HE FELT SURE THE MAN DID NOT KNOW SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD GOTTEN HIS INFORMATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE CHARGE THAT PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD IN DETENTION HERE SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID IS, VORSTER SAID, A BLATANT LIE, AND HE CHALLENGES AMERICA TO SUB-STATIATE THIS BY NAMING EVEN ONE PERSON WHO IS DETAINED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST APARTHEID.

3. VORSTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE ARE 48 SUCH OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID IN PARLIAMENT AND THOUSANDS IN THE STREETS OF JOHANNESBURG, AND IN SOME EDITORIAL OFFICES IN SOUTH AFRICA. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN DETENTION WHO HAVE PLAYED WITH FIRE , AND HE TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT, BUT NONE HAS EVER BEEN DETAINED FOR HIS VIEWS AGAINST APARTHEID. HE THOUGHT IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT A FREE LAND SUCH AS THE US SHOULD SAY THINGS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA IN THE UN. VORSTER FELT OBLIGED TO GIVE A REPLY SINCE SA NOT REPRESENTED CURRENTLY AT UNGA. BOWDLER

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